

Message Text

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TO USIA WASHDC

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STATE FOR CU/EA

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJ: WASHINGTON CONFERENCE ON FEDERALISM

REF: USIA 0495

1. POST WOULD LIKE TO NOMINATE AS PRINCIPAL MR. ROBERT J. ELLICOTT, LIBERAL MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, N.S.W. AS ALTERNATE WE NOMINATE MR. D. JAMES KILLEN, LIBERAL MEMBER PARLIAMENT, QUEENSLAND. BIODATA BOTH NOMINEES GIVEN BELOW. OTHER LABOR PARLIAMENTARIANS PERHAPS EQUALLY ATTRACTIVE BUT IMPOSSIBLE ALP HOUSE MEMBERS OR SENATE MEMBERS EITHER PARTY TO GET AWAY BECAUSE OF CLOSENESS OF PARTY BALANCE IN PARLIAMENT.

2. WE SUGGEST THAT THE NOMINEE ARRIVE WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 18 AND SPEND ONE WEEK TRAVEL U.S. FOLLOWING CLOSE OF CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 25 TO OBSERVE FEDERAL/STATE RELATIONS AT STATE CAPITOL LEVEL.

3. FUNDING OF PER DIEM, DOMESTIC TRAVEL WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM CU OR USIA. IF THE FIGURES SHOWN IN FINDLAY LETTER TO JOHNSON OF CU/EA DATED JANUARY 20, 1975, SUBJECT - STATUS REPORT ON CANBERRA IV PROGRAM FY'75 ARE CORRECT, THEN OUR ALLOCATION THIS FISCAL YEAR ALREADY SPENT OR FIRMLY COMMITTED. PLEASE ADVISE IF THIS WASHINGTON FUNDING POSSIBLE. SINCE INTERNATIONAL AIR FUNDED, AND SINCE CANDIDATES WOULD BE OUTSTANDING CONFERENCE
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PARTICIPANTS, BELIEVE THE SMALL ADDITIONAL SUM REQUESTED FULLY

JUSTIFIED.

4. ALSO THE ISSUE OF FEDERAL/STATE RELATIONSHIPS HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN MAJOR POLITICAL ISSUE AUSTRALIA AND WILL BE EVEN MORE SO THIS YEAR WITH OPPOSITION STATE GOVERNMENTS AND LABOUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN OPEN CONFLICT ON GOVERNMENT FUNDING, TAXATION, REVENUE SHARING, ETC. AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION THIS CONFERENCE VERY MUCH COMPATIBLE WITH POST PROGRAM PLANS.

5. WE HAVE NOT APPROACHED EITHER CANDIDATE AND WILL NOT DO SO UNTIL ABOVE QUERY ANSWERED BUT BELIEVE CHANCES OF THEIR AVAILABILITY GOOD AS BOTH ARE OPPOSITION PARLIAMENTARIANS AND THEIR VOTES MORE OR LESS MEANINGLESS SINCE 'LABOUR HAS THE NUMBERS'.

6. BIODATA ROBERT JAMES ELLICOTT: B.A., L.L.B. LIBERAL MEMBER FOR WENTWORTH SINCE 1974. COMMONWEALTH SOLICITOR GENERAL 1969-73. BORN APRIL 15, 1927. SYDNEY UNIV. ADMITTED BAR 1950.

7. BIODATA HON. DENNIS JAMES KILLEN: L.L.B. MINISTER NAVY 1969-71. LIBERAL MEMBER FOR MORETON, QUEENSLAND, SINCE 1955. BORN NOVEMBER 23, 1925. QUEENSLAND UNIV. VICE PRESIDENT, LIBERAL PARTY, QUEENSLAND, 1953-56. MIGHT ADD PARATHENTICALLY THAT PRIMIN WHITLAM RECENTLY STATED THAT KILLEN IS MOST EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN AND POLITICAL FIGURE THAT LABOUR MOST FEARS AND RESPECTS.

8. APPRECIATE EARLY APPROVAL THESE NOMINATIONS IF CONDITIONS IN PARA 3 ABOVE CAN BE MET.
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